

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES  
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2001  
9 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair  
Bob Workman, Vice Chair  
Larry Hudkins  
Bernie Heier  
Ray Stevens

Others Present: Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Dave Johnson, Deputy County Attorney  
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk  
Trish Owen, Deputy County Clerk  
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Staff Meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m.

**AGENDA ITEM**

**1 APPROVAL OF STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2001**

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes of September 20, 2001. Stevens, Heier and Campbell voted aye. Hudkins and Workman were absent from voting. Motion carried.

**2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None were stated.

**3 UPDATE ON FAMILIES FIRST & FOREMOST (F<sup>3</sup>) - Sheryl Schrepf, Juvenile Mental Health Director; Renee' Dozier, Service Development Director for the Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Program; Nyla Helge, System of Care Director for the Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Program; Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator; Trish Blakely and Kathy Dunning, Healthy Families Project; L J Targoff, Family Organization; Mike Epstein, evaluator of the Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Program from the University of Nebraska**

Sheryl Schrepf, Juvenile Mental Health Director, distributed *System of Care: From Vision to Infrastructure* (Exhibit A) and reviewed the section titled *Creating a Vision for Your System of Care: Principles* (Page 4), detailing the following areas:

- Families as partners
- Cultural competence
- Interagency collaboration
- Home, community and school-based services
- Individualized strength-based care
- Accountability

Schrepf said the system of care will serve 200 families with youth in the target population (seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) youth in Lancaster County who are in or at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system) next year. She said F<sup>3</sup> will serve as the single point of entry and will make appropriate referrals. Each family in the system of care will have a care coordinator and each child in the system of care will have an individualized plan of care developed by a family team.

Schrepf also distributed a packet of the following materials (Exhibit B):

- Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>), Grant Project - 1998-2003*
- Family Friendly News from the Family Advocates*
- Introduction to Lancaster County Youth Assessment Center*
- Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>), Serving youth with severe emotional disorders who are in or at risk of involvement in the juvenile justice system* (pamphlet)
- Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>), Healthy Families Project* (pamphlet)
- Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>), Family Advocates* (pamphlet)
- Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>)* (pamphlets in Spanish, Vietnamese and Arabic)
- Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>)* (newsletter)

Renee' Dozier, Service Development Director for the Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Program, reviewed *Services to be Included in the System of Care* (Exhibit C), detailing the following areas:

- Crisis Services
- Home-Based Services
- Case Management
- Respite Care
- Therapeutic Foster Care
- Transition Services
- School-Based Services

Hudkins arrived at 9:19 a.m..

Dozier noted a shortage of transition services in the community and said focus groups and experts in transition program components plan to address the issue. She added that there may be state funds available for adult transitional services.

Campbell said Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, has indicated that the United Church of Christ may be interested in providing transition residential housing for youth.

Workman arrived at 9:29 a.m.

Mike Epstein, evaluator of the Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Program from the University of Nebraska, distributed *Families First and Foremost Quarterly Report, September 15, 2001* (Exhibit D) and gave an overview of the following:

- O Summary of Family/Child Characteristics at Intake (as of 9/15/01)
- O Summary of Family/Child Characteristics at Intake, Six Month and 12 Month Followup
  - Table 1: Behavioral and Emotional Rating Scale (BERS) Standard Scores (N=28)
  - Table 2: Child and Adolescent Functioning Adjustment Scale (CAFAS) Subscale Scores (N=28)
  - Table 3: Child Behavior Check List (CBCL) Syndrome Scores (N=28)
  - Table 4: Caregiver Strain Subscales (N=28)
- O Team Meeting Observation Summary

Epstein said characteristics measured at intake, 6 months and 12 months indicate the need to “ratchet up” the delivery of services in the 6-12 month period.

Epstein also reported that two thirds of the survey participants are eligible for Medicaid, which is an important factor in terms of sustainability.

Heier requested data on how many arrests have occurred from the time of a youth’s first arrest to the point that F<sup>3</sup> has become involved.

Epstein said the Lincoln Police Department has agreed to provide additional data on police contacts including contacts prior to, during, and following a youth’s participation in the system of care.

Epstein also reviewed the following:

- O Table 1, Parent Survey - Service problems rated from least problematic to most problematic (Exhibit E)
- O Table 2, Service Provider Survey - Service problems rated from 1 (major problem) to 4 (not a problem) (Exhibit F)

- O Table 3, Service Development Priorities: Service Provider Survey (Exhibit G)
- O Table 4, Service Development Priorities: Parent Survey (Exhibit H)

Epstein noted that employment services (job training and placement) is considered a priority area by both the parents and service providers.

Epstein also reported that the University of Nebraska has just received two grants. The first will provide \$1.5 million for the next five years, with the focus on early childhood mental health. The second is a prevention to service grant that will focus services in seven elementary schools.

Schrepf reviewed *System of Care Capacity for F<sup>3</sup> Grant Eligible Youth* (Exhibit I) and *F<sup>3</sup> Families in Wraparound 9-24-01*, a pie chart depicting children served in the community cultural centers (Exhibits J). She said there is a disproportionate number of minority youth in the target population and detention so F<sup>3</sup> has contracted with a number of community based agencies to provide care coordination. School based wraparound serves a total of 65 families and is based in three elementary schools (Clinton, Hartley and Huntington), two middle schools (Dawes and Culler) and one high school (Northeast).

In response to a question from Campbell, Schrepf said Region V will continue the Family & Youth Investment (FYI) Program and will continue to serve families in the system of care that elected to remain with them, although it will no longer count as match for the F<sup>3</sup> Grant.

In response to a question from Hudkins, Nyla Helge, System of Care Director for the Families First & Foremost (F<sup>3</sup>) Grant Program, said efforts are being made to reach out to the Hispanic community and reported that a new care coordinator has been hired for the Hispanic Center.

Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, noted that school based wraparound will also provide access.

Campbell suggested additional coordination with the Community Learning Center.

Trish Blakely, Healthy Families Project, gave an update on the project, noting development of a network of information and support for families with seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) youth in crisis and/or treatment in coordination with Cedars Youth Services, CenterPointe, Inc., Lancaster County Juvenile Detention Center and BryanLGH Mental Health Services (Exhibit K). She said the Healthy Families Project has also met with Juvenile Court Judges and representatives of Probation, County Attorney and Public Defender to discuss development of a juvenile court advocacy for families going through the court system. A mentoring/advocacy program is also being developed and training efforts are taking place in the community.

Blakely also reported that the Healthy Families Project was recently selected by the Federation of Families to give a presentation in Washington D.C. on family involvement in the F<sup>3</sup> Grant Program.

Kathy Dunning, Healthy Families Project, reported on the following:

- Healthy Families Project, Specific Service Categories Survey (Exhibit L)*
- Healthy Families Project, Family Testimonial Survey (Exhibit M)*

Heier expressed concern about waiting periods for assistance.

Schrepf said the capacity has been increased this year so more families will be brought into the system of care.

Blakely added that the Healthy Families Project offers family support during the waiting period.

L J Targoff, Family Organization, said her organization's activities include:

- Family involvement and recruitment
- Collaboration with other agencies
- "Fun with Families" activities
- Respite care
- Advocacy

Schrepf reviewed *F<sup>3</sup> Match/Sustainability, September, 2001* (Exhibit N), noting that the match for the grant will change to \$1 federal:\$2 local in Year Four and \$1 federal:\$3 local in Year Five and must relate to services for the target population. She noted that OPTIONS (Medicaid Managed Care Program) may be relinquishing its contract and said it may be possible to carve out the Medicaid piece for Lancaster County for the target population.

Boesch said leadership, community understanding and continuum of care are key. She said it is also crucial that other county agencies understand what F<sup>3</sup> is about.

Boesch also stated that the Board needs to begin to decide what parts of the infrastructure it wants to maintain and start planning for how to fund it.

Campbell said a Sustainability Committee should be formed at the F<sup>3</sup> level, to include Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, and his counterparts at the State.

Schrepf reported that a federal site visit will take place October 9-12, 2001 and invited the Board to attend the exit interview on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4 ADJOURNMENT

By direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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Bruce Medcalf  
County Clerk